जो इस समय देश में हीरे का खनन कर रहा है भारत में हीरे की खोज के लिए यूएनडीटीसीडी से सहायता मांगी है। निगम, हीरे के गवेषण में कुछ विदेशी कम्पनियों की सहायता प्राप्त करने की संभावनाओं का भी पता लगा रहा है।

भारत-फ्रांस प्रोटोकाल के तहत, फ्रांस के बीआरजीएम का भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण के साथ आंध्र प्रदेश में हीरे का गवेषण करने का प्रस्ताव है।

Production of Zinc

2124. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO :
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of Zinc in the country during the last three years and what was its value;

(b) what was the quantity of zinc exported/imported during the said period;

(c) what is the domestic consumption and demand for zinc; and

(d) how much zinc is used by the pharmaceutical industry annually ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) The total production of Zinc by the primary producers during the past 3 years and its value are as under :

(Quantity in tonnes/value in Cr./Rs.)

Name of producer	1990-91		1991-92		1992-93	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	72,362	386.24	84,668	500.22	1,06,564	665.96
Binani Zinc Ltd.	1,608	7.60	16,537	89.60	20,036	118.80
Total :	73,970	393.84	1,01,205	589.82	1,26,600	784.76

(b) The total quantity of Zinc including its alloys imported during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 (April—December, 1992) was 76,758, 39,377 and 12,614 tonnes respectively. Hindustan Zinc Ltd. exported about 1155 tonnes of Zinc during 1992-93.

(c) The estimated domestic demand of Zinc during 1993-94 is 1,45,000 tonnes.

(d) Zinc is used in various chemical forms in certain pharmaceutical industries. No separate information about actual consumption of zinc in this sector is maintained.

उत्तर प्रदेश में खनिज भंडार

2125 **श्री ईश दत्त यादव** : क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में खनिज भंडार प्रचुर मात्रा में उपलब्ध है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो पिछले एक वर्ष के दौरान किन-किन क्षेत्रों में कौन-कौन से खनिजों के भंडारों का पता चला है; और

(ग) क्या सरकार इन मूल्यवान खनिज भंडारों को उपयोग में लाने का विचार रखती है ?

खान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बलराम सिंह यादव) : (क) से (ग) जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.

2126. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY : DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited is running in loss for the last three years;

(b) whether Government propose to privatise the said corporation and if so, by when; and

(c) whether the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited has the technical knowhow and the equipment for exploration in consonance with the latest technology available in the world ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) has the technical knowhow and equipment to carry out exploration as generally practised in countries world over.

Gold Deposits in Singhbhoom District Bihar

2127. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Geological Survey of India has discovered a huge quantity of Gold deposit in a remote village in Singhbhoom District of Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that Gold has also been found in Monghyr District of Bihar; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to start the gold mining process and to check present illegal mining in these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Exploration so far carried out by State Government of Bihar in Sonu Block, Karmatiya Village, Munger District have indicated low gold values between less than 0.1—1.8 g/t of gold. The data obtained so far are not sufficient to establish reserves. Gold mining can be considered only after techno-economic viability of the deposits is established. Checking of illegal mining of minerals is governed by the concerned rules of the State Government.

Production of Copper

2128. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that copper industry is facing a tough competition in the domestic market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government propose to take for the survival of the industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Due to poor grade of copper ore, the cost of producing copper in the country is not internationally competitive, Reduction in import duty on copper has also affected the indigenous copper industry. International price of copper has registered sharply declining trends recently due to sluggish market conditions which too has affected realisable copper prices particularly when copper metal is freely importable now.